

(a) a plurality of video display devices each having associated

(i) participant video capture capabilities, and

(ii) participant audio

(1) capture and

(2) reproduction capabilities; and

(b) at least one communication path

(i) along which signals

(1) representing participant audio and video

(ii) can be transmitted,

wherein the system is configured to allow a selecting participant

(i) to initiate

(1) collaboration

(ii) by selecting

(1) one or more participants

i. from among a plurality of potential participants, and

(2) at least one collaboration type

i. from among a set of collaboration types,

(iii) establishing communication

(1) of the selected type,

(2) with the selected participant.

(iv) thereby to define a teleconference call.

30. The teleconferencing system of claim 29, wherein the system allows the selecting participant to:

- (a) select
- (i) one or more desired participants
 - (ii) from a first set of the potential participants; and
- (b) select
- (i) one or more desired participants
 - (ii) from a second set of potential participants,
 - (1) the second set being a subset of the first set, and thereby
- (c) establish communication
- (i) with all selected participants.

31. The teleconferencing system of claim 30, wherein:

- (a) the first set includes
- (i) names of the potential participants; and
- (b) the second set includes
- (ii) icons representing the potential participants.

⁴
~~32.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, wherein

- (a) the set of collaboration types includes at least one of:
- (i) data conferencing, videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, sending faxes, sending electronic mail, and the sending of multimedia mail messages.

³
~~33.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ²~~30~~, wherein

- (a) the selecting participant

(b) can use

(i) at least one computer graphic user interface

(ii) to select

(1) at least one of the participant(s) and/or

(2) at least one of the collaboration types.

⁵
~~34.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, wherein the system

(a) defaults to

(i) to a default collaboration type

(ii) upon selection of a participant.

⁶
~~35.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, wherein the system

(a) allows pre-selecting

(i) a desired participant; and

(ii) a default collaboration type.

⁷
~~36.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, wherein the system is configured to allow a participant:

(a) to select

(i) a further participant

(ii) from among a plurality of potential participants and

(b) add

(i) the new participant

- (i) to an active teleconference call.

⁸
~~37.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, wherein the system is further configured to:

- (a) detect
 - (i) during a first teleconference call
 - (1) between a first and a second participant,
 - (ii) an attempt
 - (1) by a third caller
 - (2) to initiate a second teleconference call
 - (3) with the second participant;
- (b) notify
 - (i) the second participant
 - (ii) of the attempt; and
- (c) allow
 - (i) the second participant
 - (ii) to add
 - (1) the third caller
 - (2) to the first teleconference call.

⁹
~~38.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, wherein the system is configured to:

- (a) allow
 - (i) at least one participant
 - (ii) access

- (1) to at least one audio and/or video signal source; and
- (b) reproduce
 - (i) audio and video
 - (1) based on signals
 - (2) from the accessed signal source
 - (ii) for another participant

¹⁰
~~39.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, wherein the system is configured to

- (a) support a maximum number of N calls
 - (i) for a participant; and
 - (b) enable that participant,
 - (i) when faced with M, greater than N, possible calls,
 - (ii) to select N of the M possible calls.

¹¹
~~40.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, wherein the system is configured to:

- (a) allow a participant
 - (i)
in a teleconference call with
 - (1) a plurality of other participants
 - (ii) to place on hold
 - (iii) at least one of the other participants.

¹²
~~41.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ¹~~29~~, configured to:

- (a) allow a participant

- (i) in a teleconference call with
 - (1) a plurality of other participants
- (ii) to disconnect
- (iii) at least one of the other participants.

- Sub E2
42. A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants, each having an associated video capture and display and audio capture and reproduction capabilities, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) selecting
 - (i) one or more desired participants
 - (ii) from among a plurality of potential participants;
 - (b) selecting
 - (i) a desired collaboration type
 - (ii) from among a plurality of collaboration types;
 - (c) establishing communication
 - (i) of the selected type,
 - (ii) with the selected participant,
 - (d) thereby defining a teleconference call.

43. The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting

- (i) one or more desired participants
- (ii) from a first set of the potential participants; and
- (b) selecting
- (i) one or more desired participants
- (ii) from a second set of potential participants,
- (1) the second set being a subset of the first set, and thereby
- (c) establishing communications
- (i) with all selected participants.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein:

- (a) the first set includes
- (i) names of potential participants; and
- (b) the second set includes
- (i) icons representing potential participants.

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45. The method of claim ⁴² 44, wherein

- (a) the plurality of collaboration types includes at least one of:
- (i) data conferencing, videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, sending faxes, sending electronic mail and sending multimedia mail messages

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46. The method of claim ¹³ 42, wherein

- (a) the step of selecting
- (i) one or more participants.

(ii) invokes a default collaboration type.

¹⁷
~~47~~. The method of claim ¹³~~42~~, further comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting

(i) a new participant

(ii) from among a plurality of potential participants; and

(b) adding

(i) the new participant

(ii) to an active teleconference call.

¹⁸
~~48~~. The method of claim ¹³~~42~~, further comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting,

(i) during a first teleconference call

(1) between a first and a second participant,

(ii) an attempt

(1) by a third caller

(2) to initiate a second teleconference call

(3) with the second participant;

(b) notifying

(i) the second participant

(ii) of the attempt; and

(c) adding

(i) the third caller

Flp

(ii) to the first teleconference call.

¹⁹
~~49~~

¹³
~~42~~ The method of claim ~~42~~, further comprising the steps of

(a) allowing at least one participant

(1) access to at least one audio and/or video signal source; and

(b) reproducing video and/or audio

(i) based on signals,

(ii) from the accessed signal source;

(iii) for another participant.

²⁰
~~50~~

¹³
~~42~~ The method of claim ~~42~~, wherein a maximum number of calls equal to N can be supported for a participant,

the method further comprising the steps of:

^D
(a) enabling that participant,

(i) in a teleconference call,

(ii) when faced with M, greater than N, possible calls

(iii) to select N of the M possible calls.

²¹
~~51~~

¹³
~~42~~ The method of claim ~~42~~, further comprising the step of

(a) allowing a participant

(i) in a teleconference call with

(1) a plurality of other participants

(ii) to place on hold

(iii) at least one of the other participants.

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52.

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The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of

- (a) allowing a participant.
 - (i) in a teleconference call with
 - (1) a plurality of other participants
 - (ii) to disconnect
 - (iii) at least one of the other participants.

- Sub E3
53. A teleconferencing system
for conducting a teleconference
among a plurality of participants comprising:
- (a) a plurality of video display devices each having associated
 - (i) participant video capture capabilities, and
 - (ii) participant audio
 - (1) capture and
 - (2) reproduction capabilities;
 - (b) at least one communication path
 - (i) along which signals
 - (1) representing participant audio and video
 - (ii) can be transmitted,
 - (c) a switch
 - (i) configured to switch

- (1) transmitted signals
- (2) between the participants, and.

wherein the system is configured to allow a selecting participant

- (i) to initiate
 - (1) any of a plurality of types of collaboration
- (ii) by selecting
 - (1) one or more desired participants
 - from among a plurality of potential participant, and
 - (2) desired collaboration type
 - from among a set of collaboration types, including, at least one of,
 - data conferencing, videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, the
 - sending of faxes and the sending of multimedia mail messages; and
- (iii) establishing communication
 - (1) of the selected type,
 - (2) with the selected participant(s).

54. A method for conducting a teleconference

among a plurality of participants, each having an associated video capture and display and audio and video AV capture and reproduction capabilities,
the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting
 - (i) one or more desired participants
 - (ii) from among a plurality of potential participants;